

Utah Substance Abuse and Anti-Violence Coordinating Council

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Meeting Notes Substance Abuse Services Committee Meeting Room 127, State Capitol Building September 25, 2002 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Co-chair Harold Morrill welcomed all present. Susan Burke was introduced as the new Director of USAAV. Former USAAV Administrator, Marvin Dodge, has taken a position with the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget. Susan explained that she is familiar with the USAAV Coordinating Council as she worked with the Anti-Violence Committee previously. She is looking forward to new avenues of change and progress.

14th meeting. The motion

was seconded by Larry Petersen and approved unanimously.

Chairman's Report

Harold reported on the merger of the Division of Substance Abuse and the Division of Mental Health. The Executive Director is Randall Bachman.

Vera Institute Update

Bill Greer, State Legislative Fiscal Analyst, gave a report on the Vera Institute Conference he attended in New York City. The Utah delegation that attended included Rep. Scott Daniels, Reed Richards, Senator Chris Buttars and himself. The conference was centered around alternatives to incarceration, particularly treatment. He added that Utah was the only state attending that had bed capacity (700 vacant) in our prisons. Sen. Buttars was adamant about not discussing legalization or decriminalization, treatment before incarceration was the only subject broached. Well over 70% of Utah inmates have substance abuse issues. No final answers came out of the conference, but many issues were raised to study. Arizona has diverted luxury tax off of alcohol to go to treatment; however, in Utah leftover monies from the liquor allocation go into the general fund which would be extremely difficult to access. Discussion followed noting that Rep. Daniels is interested in the Oregon Law which will be brought to the next meeting. Emery Jones added that it would be good to have basic treatment guidelines written into the bill. Larry Petersen noted that the threat of incarceration is effective; not necessarily the incarceration itself. Treatment funding will be a key issue. The time frame for legislation right now is two months. Bill feels impressed that CCJJ has the committees and the coordination of resources available to be able to handle this multi-faceted issue.



Impact on Utah State Prison Population

Brent Kelsey was asked to look at what the impact of similar legislation would do to Utah's correction population; how this would affect the prison population and how the funding would impact Utah. Brent reported that this could not be funded by a corrections offset - the numbers are low. 80-90% of Utah prisoners already have a treatment clause in their release.

Brent found that almost all of the states reviewed excluded people with any history of violent felony. His recommendation is to focus on the tremendous gap in services. There are currently 5,100 people that are appropriate for drug court services, but unable to access the system because of lack of funding. Discussion included looking at the costs incurred by AP&P, Courts and Corrections, combining agency efforts and if Rep. Daniels and Senator Butters are heading toward legislation then offer assistance. A joint umbrella would be the ideal: a system that provides public safety and effective treatment.

Susan noted that the Utah Sentencing Commission, CCJJ and USAAV will be presenting at the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee meeting on October 23rd intermediate sanctions as they related to substance abusing offenders.

Utah Crime Reduction Plan: Drug Reduction Measures

Susan reviewed the first goal of the Utah Crime Reduction Plan: to decrease the prevalence of drug use, drug sales and drug manufacturing in Utah. The objective is to decrease the use of drugs. The second goal is to measure any decrease within the state. The following ideas resulted: 1) ADAM data, 2) emergency room data, 3) National Household telephone and school survey entitled, "Prevention Needs Assessment", 4) Youth Tobacco Survey, 5) Connie Kitchens is working on a University survey and 6) the Youth Risk Behavior survey is completed every other year. It was noted that DEA is a good source for information on manufacturing, sales and use statewide. Susan will take the information on the first objectives and list all of the performance measures and continue to build on it each meeting.

Update

Verne Larsen reported that the State Incentive Cooperative Agreement (SICA) is making good progress attempting to bring prevention efforts statewide. Local areas are doing positive things with it. Michelle Staley suggested that local officers could come to this meeting and present what they're doing now in comparison to what was being done prior to SICA. It was also suggested that Steve Harrison be invited to the next meeting to help us better understand what is going on statewide with prevention efforts.

Next Meeting

It was agreed that the SAS Committee members will forego the October meeting and try to attend the Oct. 23rd Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee. This meeting will be held in room 415 of the State Capitol from 9:00 – Noon on October 23rd.

The Substance Abuse Services Committee meeting schedule will be as follows for the remainder of the year:

November 6th and December 4th from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Room locations will be announced later.